

1. (Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a plurality of backup storage systems including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client; and

at least one user interface, coupled to at least the first and second backup storage systems, to receive information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

wherein the plurality of backup storage systems includes a third backup storage system to backup information stored on at least one client, the third backup storage system being coupled to the at least one user interface; and

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and the at least one user interface, the at least one domain excluding the third backup storage system so that the at least one user interface is not authorized to receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

7. (Amended) In a computer system including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client, and at least one user interface coupled to the first and second backup storage systems, a method comprising an act of:

receiving, at the at least one user interface, information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

wherein the computer system further includes a third backup storage system to backup information stored on at least one client, the third backup storage system being coupled to the at least one user interface, the computer system further including at least one domain that includes at least the first and second backup storage systems and the at least one user interface and excludes the third backup storage system; and

wherein the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included

in the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the third backup storage system.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the act of transmitting the information includes an act of transmitting the information relating to the backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems only within the at least one domain, so that the first and second backup storage systems do not transmit the information related to the backup activities to the third backup storage system.

11. (Amended) In a computer system including at least first and second backup storage systems to each backup information stored on at least one client, and at least one user interface coupled to the first and second backup storage systems, a method comprising an act of:

receiving, at the at least one user interface, information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems, wherein the act of receiving information comprises an act of:

(a) determining if a user of the at least one user interface is authorized to access information related to the backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems, and when it is determined in the act (a) that the user is authorized to access the information, the act of receiving information further comprises acts of;

(b) allowing the user to select, via the at least one user interface, a report on information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;

(c) transmitting a request from the at least one user interface for information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems based on the report selected by the user;

(d) receiving the request at the first and second backup storage systems; and

(e) determining if the at least one user interface is authorized to receive information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems;
and

when it is determined in the act (e) that the at least one user interface is authorized to receive the information related to backup activities of the first and second backup storage systems, the act of receiving information further comprises acts of:

(f) transmitting the information related to backup activities from the first and second backup storage systems to the at least one user interface; and

(g) making the transmitted information available to the user via the at least one user interface.

12. (Amended) In a computer system including at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, a method comprising an act of:

receiving information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system at the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup storage system and the at least one user interface; wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

17. (Amended) A user interface for use in a computer system having at least one backup storage system, the at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, the user interface comprising:

at least one controller, to be coupled to the at least one backup storage system, to receive information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup storage system and the user interface; wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

the controller receives only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in the at least one domain, so that the user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

22. (Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a program for execution on a computer system that includes at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, the program, when executed on the computer system, performing a method comprising an act of:

receiving information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system at the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup storage system and the at least one user interface; wherein:

the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system;

the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

the act of receiving information includes an act of receiving, at the at least one user interface, only information related to backup activities of backup storage systems included in

the at least one domain, so that the at least one user interface does not receive information related to backup activities of the second backup storage system.

40. (Amended) In a computer system having at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, a method comprising an act of:

transmitting information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup system and the at least one user interface;

wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system, wherein the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system within the at least one domain, so that the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system is not transmitted to the second backup storage system.

44. (Amended) A first backup storage system to store backup data from at least one client, the first backup storage system for use in a computer system having at least one user interface, the first backup storage system comprising:

at least one controller to transmit information related to backup activities of the first backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface;

wherein the computer system includes a second backup storage system, and at least one domain that includes the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the at least one controller transmits the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the at least one controller does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to the second backup storage system.

49. (Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a program for execution on a computer system that includes at least one user interface and at least one backup storage system to store data from at least one client, the program, when executed on the computer system, performing a method comprising an act of:

transmitting information related to backup activities of the at least one backup storage system to the at least one user interface over a path that is not dedicated to transporting information between the at least one backup system and the at least one user interface;

wherein the at least one backup storage system includes a first backup storage system and a second backup storage system, wherein the computer system includes at least one domain that includes at least the first backup storage system and the at least one user interface and excludes the second backup storage system; and

wherein the act of transmitting information includes an act of transmitting the information related to backup activities of the first backup storage system only within the at least one domain, so that the first backup storage system does not transmit the information related to the backup activities of the first backup storage system to the second backup storage system.